



Getting Washington Back to Work

(Last updated: 3/10/2003 11:11 AM)

Washington is facing the most dramatic job losses since the Boeing bust in the early 1970s. We are a state of hard working and innovative people— some of whom are unemployed for the first time in their lives.

Senate Republicans are measuring every piece of legislation and every budget item against whether or not it will help spur our economy and create jobs. Legislation that will help create jobs will move to the front of the line while bills that hinder the economy will move to the back of the line.

We are revisiting the recommendations of the Washington Competitiveness Council as well as our own Working for Washington project to identify areas where we can succeed in improving our state's business climate and getting people back to work:

BUDGETING LIKE A BUSINESS:

Senate Republicans took a first step in our agenda by passing a supplemental budget out of the Senate implementing \$127 million in cost-savings now and reducing the budget by \$250 million for 2003-05. The House of Representatives made some modifications so the budget is in negotiations with plans for passage soon. **SB 5403** passed Senate, 29-20ⁱ, on 1/29/03, passed House, 94-1 on 2/21/03ⁱⁱ.

REDUCING RED TAPE:

Then we passed several bills reducing red tape in government:

- ⊕ **SB 5255:** Limiting the rule-making authority of agencies to specific legislative grants of authority (passed Senate, 33-16ⁱⁱⁱ, on 2/11/03);
- ⊕ **SB 5256:** Insisting on the completion of cost-benefit analyses earlier in the rule making process (passed Senate, 48-1^{iv}, on 2/11/03);
- ⊕ **SB 5257:** Requiring gubernatorial approval of agency rules (passed Senate, 41-8^v, on 2/11/03)
- ⊕ **SB 5161:** Establishing programs to help state businesses reduce workplace ergonomics injuries and making the state's ergonomics rules voluntary. This measure, which passed the Senate, 30-19,^{vi} specifies that ergonomics rules shall be voluntary until required by Congress or the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- ⊕ **SB 5766:** Requiring 200 days notice to businesses affected by significant rules (Included in Gov. Locke's regulatory reform press conference on 3/5/03 and passed Senate, 48-0, on 3/06/03)
- ⊕ **SB 5254:** Allowing citizens or businesses to challenge agency rules in the county where they live, work or own affected property rather than forcing them to go all the way to Thurston County courts. (SB 5254 passed Senate, 35-14^{vii} on 3/7/03)
- ⊕ **SB 5052:** Requiring significant legislative rules to sit through a full legislative session before they are adopted to allow the Legislature to determine whether or not the rule fits within policy set by the Legislature. (passed Senate, 33-16^{viii}, on 3/7/03)

REDUCING COSTS IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION:

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, we passed a bill, requested by the Department of Labor and Industries, to reduce the workers' compensation costs.

- ⊕ **SB 5271** requires a worker to file a hearing loss claim for "permanent partial disability" due to workplace exposure within two years of the date of the worker's last exposure. Workers continue to receive medical care, including hearing aids, no matter how much time has elapsed since the workplace exposure.

SB 5271, which passed the Senate, 28-21,^{ix} saves \$228 million in the employer-funded accident account during the 2003-05 biennium. This will directly mitigate future double-digit increases that are expected next year to supplement this year's 29 percent average rate increase in workers' comp premiums imposed earlier this year. The bill saves \$28 million per biennium in the future.

ROADMAP TO COMPETITIVENESS:

- ⊕ Budgeting like a business;
- ⊕ Reducing red tape;
- ⊕ Reducing costs in workers' compensation;
- ⊕ Supporting state efforts to help businesses add jobs;
- ⊕ Improving land use and housing affordability ;
- ⊕ Providing certainty in water permitting and regulation;
- ⊕ Returning "justice" to the civil justice system;
- ⊕ Addressing rising health care costs; and
- ⊕ Fighting transportation gridlock.

IMPROVING LAND USE REGULATION AND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY:

In response to a Supreme Court decision that found the state's current direct petition method of annexation unconstitutional, the Senate approved **SB 5409** to increase fairness in the petition method of annexation and to provide greater certainty for growth and economic development. SB 5409 passed the Senate, 47-0, on 3/6/03.^x

SUPPORTING STATE EFFORTS TO HELP BUSINESSES ADD JOBS:

- ♦ **SB 5714** levels the playing field for the state's financial institutions so they can compete with each other and with banks across the nation with regard to maximum rates and fees for home equity and consumer loans. This will encourage banks to remain in Washington. It passed 49-0^{xi} on 3/6/03.
- ♦ **SB 5720** allows retailers and businesses to request additional identification when conducting debit and credit transactions. Currently some are prohibited by contract from requesting this additional information. SB 5720, which passed the Senate, 49-0^{xii}, on 3/6/03, will help businesses by preventing fraud and saving them money so they can create more jobs.

For more information on "Getting Washington Back to Work," visit:

<http://www.src.wa.gov/Members/Finkbeiner45/Microsoft%20PowerPoint%20-%20Roadmappublic.pdf>

For interviews:

Sen. Bill Finkbeiner, (360) 786-7672

Sen. Pat Hale, (360) 786-7614

ⁱ **Yeas:** Senators Benton, Brandland, Carlson, Deccio, Esser, Finkbeiner, Hale, **Hargrove, Haugen**, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, **Reardon**, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, **T. Sheldon**, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

ⁱⁱ **Voting yea:** Representatives Ahern, Alexander, Anderson, Armstrong, Bailey, Benson, **Berkey, Blake**, Boldt, Buck, Bush, Cairnes, Campbell, Carrell, Chandler, **Chase**, Clements, **Clibborn, Cody**, Condotta, **Conway, Cooper**, Cox, Crouse, **Darneille**, DeBolt, Delvin, **Dickerson, Dunshee, Edwards, Eickmeyer**, Ericksen, **Flannigan, Fromhold, Gombosky, Grant, Haigh**, Hankins, **Hatfield**, Hinkle, Holmquist, **Hudgins, Hunt, Hunter**, Jarrett, **Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Kirby**, Kristiansen, **Lantz, Linville, Lovick**, Mastin, **McCoy, McDermott**, McDonald, **McIntire**, McMahan, McMorris, **Miloscia, Moeller, Morrell, Morris, Murray**, Newhouse, Nixon, **O'Brien**, Orcutt, Pearson, **Pettigrew**, Pflug, Priest, Roach, **Rockefeller, Romero, Ruderman, Santos**, Schindler, Schoesler, **Schual-Berke**, Sehlin, Shabro, Skinner, **Sommers, Sullivan**, Talcott, Tom, **Upthegrove, Voloria, Wallace, Wood**, Woods, and **Mr. Speaker**

Voting nay: Representative Simpson

Excused: Representatives Mielke, **Quall**, Sump

ⁱⁱⁱ **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, Carlson, Deccio, **Doumit, Eide**, Esser, Finkbeiner, Hale, **Hargrove, Haugen**, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, **Rasmussen, Reardon**, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, **T. Sheldon, Shin**, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

^{iv} **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, **Brown**, Carlson, Deccio, **Doumit, Eide**, Esser, **Fairley**, Finkbeiner, **Franklin, Fraser**, Hale, **Hargrove, Haugen**, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, **Jacobsen**, Johnson, **Kastama, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe**, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, **Poulsen, Prentice, Rasmussen, Reardon, Regala**, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, **B. Sheldon, T. Sheldon, Shin, Spanel**, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

^v **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, **Brown**, Carlson, Deccio, **Doumit, Eide**, Esser, Finkbeiner, **Fraser**, Hale, **Hargrove, Haugen**, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, **Kastama, Keiser, Kohl-Welles**, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, **Poulsen, Rasmussen, Reardon, Regala**, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, **B. Sheldon, T. Sheldon, Shin**, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

^{vi} **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, Carlson, Deccio, **Doumit**, Esser, Finkbeiner, Hale, **Hargrove, Haugen**, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, **McAuliffe**, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, **Rasmussen**, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, **T. Sheldon**, Stevens, Swecker, West, and Zarelli.

(bold=Democratic votes)

^{vii} **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, Carlson, Deccio, **Doumit, Eide**, Esser, Finkbeiner, Hale, **Hargrove, Haugen**, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, **Keiser**, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, **Poulsen, Rasmussen, Reardon**, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, **T. Sheldon, Shin**, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

Voting Nay: Senators **Brown, Fairley, Franklin, Fraser, Jacobsen, Kastama, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Prentice, Regala, B. Sheldon, Spanel**, and Thibaudeau.

^{viii} **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, Carlson, Deccio, **Doumit, Eide**, Esser, Finkbeiner, Hale, **Hargrove, Haugen**, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, **Rasmussen, Reardon**, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, **T. Sheldon, Shin**, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

^{ix} **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, Carlson, Deccio, **Doumit**, Esser, Finkbeiner, Hale, **Hargrove**, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, **T. Sheldon**, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

^x **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, **Brown**, Carlson, Deccio, **Doumit, Eide**, Esser, **Fairley**, Finkbeiner, **Franklin, Fraser**, Hale, **Hargrove, Haugen**, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, **Jacobsen**, Johnson, **Kastama, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe**, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, **Poulsen, Prentice, Rasmussen, Reardon, Regala**, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, **B. Sheldon, T. Sheldon, Spanel**, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

^{xi} **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, **Brown**, Carlson, Deccio, **Doumit, Eide**, Esser, **Fairley**, Finkbeiner, **Franklin, Fraser**, Hale, **Hargrove, Haugen**, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, **Jacobsen**, Johnson, **Kastama, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe**, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, **Poulsen, Prentice, Rasmussen, Reardon, Regala**, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, **B. Sheldon, T. Sheldon, Shin, Spanel**, Stevens, Swecker, **Thibaudeau** West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

^{xii} **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, **Brown**, Carlson, Deccio, **Doumit, Eide**, Esser, **Fairley**, Finkbeiner, **Franklin, Fraser**, Hale, **Hargrove, Haugen**, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, **Jacobsen**, Johnson, **Kastama, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe**, McCaslin, Morton,

Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, **Poulsen, Prentice, Rasmussen, Reardon, Regala**, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, **B. Sheldon, T. Sheldon, Shin, Spanel**, Stevens, Swecker, **Thibaudeau** West, Winsley, and Zarelli.